



# This Week in the Cav

First Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office  
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## July 4, 2004

## ING Opens Headquarters

### Cutline:

Ribbon Cutting.jpg –



Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Washington Army National Guard joined with troopers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 302<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi National Guard Battalion July 3 to celebrate the opening of the ING company's headquarters building located at the Zafaraniya Government Center. Lt. Col. Chris Fowler, 1-161 INF commander and the commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 302<sup>nd</sup> ING Battalion, cut the ribbon in front of the building. Although the finishing touches haven't been put on the building, it is ready for use. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Public Affairs)

## **39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Soldiers Patrol Baghdad**

### Cutlines:

### **Casual Chit Chat JPEG—**



Sgt. Christopher Southern, 28, of Little Rock, Ark., takes a moment to talk with a local Iraqi child in downtown Baghdad while on patrol. Southern is currently serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment in Iraq. He is two months into a yearlong rotation to support Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Public Affairs)

### **Stance 2 JPEG—**



Staff Sgt. Curtis Coleman, 27, of Foreman, Ark., stands ready in a humvee as he and his squad patrol downtown Baghdad in Iraq. Coleman is a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Public Affairs)

### **The Man Behind the Gun2 JPEG—**



Spc. Terry Martin, 46, of Hope, Ark., mans the 240B machine gun while on patrol in downtown Baghdad. Martin is part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153 Infantry serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Public Affairs)

### **The Driver JPEG—**



Spc. Dusty Townsend, 19, of Hope, Ark., drives for his team in downtown Iraq. The role of the driver is exceedingly important, as they have to maneuver without lights, traffic signs and sometimes against ongoing traffic. Townsend is currently serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Public Affairs)

### **On the City Beat JPEG—**



Staff Sgt. Curtis Coleman, 27, of Foreman, Ark., patrols the streets of Baghdad on a security mission. Coleman is a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Public Affairs)

## **Al-Bayaa Police Station Takes the Lead**

**By Sgt. Dan Purcell**  
**122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Marking another turning point in the Transfer of Authority, Al-Bayaa police station commanders assumed operational control during an Iraqi flag raising ceremony atop their headquarters on July 1.

It was a modest ceremony attended by both Iraqi policemen and Soldiers of the 545<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. The event symbolized the return of Iraq's sovereignty.

Staff Sgt. Michael Ashcraft, 545 MP, said the transition also means changes for both the Multi-National Forces and the Iraqi Police (IP).

"We don't have as much decision making authority as we did before, but our mission still stays the same, which is training and assisting the IPs in their every day missions," Ashcraft said.

"Currently, we are still conducting joint patrols, but as they become more skilled in their techniques we will remain to help facilitate problems they might encounter, or if

they get into something they are not ready to handle right now,” Ashcraft said. “We will continue to work side-by-side with them, but they will be the lead element.”

The Al-Bayaa Police Station is the largest in Baghdad and provides a base for three police headquarter elements, which cover the districts of Al-Bayaa, Al-Dora and Hayal Amel.

With the assistance of an interpreter, Colonel Safaa, IP commander for the Al-Dora District, wanted to convey his gratitude to the Multi-National Forces.

“I am very happy about what has happened today, and I want to thank the coalition for the help they have given us to arrive at this point in our mission,” Safaa said. “We still have a job to do. To achieve peace, we need to stop those that want to undermine Iraq.”

In addition to taking a tough stance on the criminal elements who are trying to disrupt the peace process in Iraq, Safaa wants to build a better image of the Iraqi Police.

“It is very important for us to be able to work with the people, and it is my wish that in the future we can provide the stability they need,” Safaa said. “We need the people’s cooperation, so we can work together as one family.”

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## **CUTLINES:**

### **Commanders raise flag-0014 JPEG—**



Colonel Safaa (center) is one of three Al-Bayaa police station commanders to hoist the national flag above their facility during a transfer of authority ceremony July 1. The event marked the return of operational law enforcement control to the local Iraqi Police. The commanders share the same police station, which is located in the Al-Rashid District of Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

### **Iraqis unfurl flag-0025 JPEG—**



During a transfer of authority ceremony on July 1, at the Al-Bayaa Police Station, located in the Al-Rashid District of Baghdad, Iraqi Police commanders unfurl the national flag. The event symbolized a return of operational control to the Iraqi Police. Multi-National Forces will remain in order to provide assistance to their law enforcement counterparts. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

#### **Ceremony preparation-0004 JPEG—**



Staff Sgt. Michael Pentecost, 545th Military Police Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division attaches the Iraqi national flag to a flag pole in preparation for a transfer of authority ceremony July 1, at the Al-Bayaa police station located in the Al-Rashid District of Baghdad. The ceremony included the raising of the Iraqi flag, symbolizing the Multi-National Forces hand off of operational control to the local Iraqi Police. The 545 MP, will continue to act as a facilitator and provide ongoing law enforcement assistance. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## **2-12 Cav. Builds Hope in Soccer Field**

**By Sgt. Dan Purcell**  
**122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

BAGHDAD, Iraq— Nestled between a highway overpass and a lower income neighborhood in the Kamidaya District of Baghdad lies a field of hope and dreams; a symbol of a peaceful and prosperous future.

On June 30, local dignitaries and residents gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of a soccer field and playground.

“Originally, it was just a dirt field with some goal posts and a lot of trash and debris, but we cleaned it out, put in some sod for grass, fenced it and put in a play ground at a cost of about \$8,000,” said Capt. Kevin Badger, commander Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

“This was one of two soccer fields in the area, and what the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) decided to do was to combine the soccer fields and the parks together, which is why there is a playground,” Badger said. “The purpose is to give the kids something to do while the adults are playing soccer.”

Badger said May and June have been very busy months for beautification projects throughout his area of responsibility.

“These projects are real good for the community,” he said. “We paved about a mile and half of unimproved road that runs along the Tigris River. It was in really bad shape from being used by tanks and Bradleys, but now it is providing the people with a riverside drive that they didn’t have before. We have done a variety of [Commander Emergency Relief Program] projects ranging between road cleanup to parks”.

As for the post transfer of authority, Badger said that the work that is being done will continue without much change.

“However, the Neighborhood Advisory Council and District Advisory Council (DAC) will take a more active role in how things get done, and my job will be as a facilitator and to make sure things are being done to standard,” Badger said.

“Currently we are looking at renovating a local hospital dormitory for young doctors and we are looking at renovating a school a week in the neighborhoods,” he said. “We have been trying to make some quick fixes so the people can see that we are trying to help them, and now we are moving on to bigger projects. I think we have done pretty well so far and have made a lot of people happy.”

“I appreciate what the Coalition did for this neighborhood and we hope that there will be more projects for this area,” Dr. Mohammed Rauef, DAC chairman, said. “In the future we are planning to build a big sports facility with a swimming pool, a health center and a public market. With the recent transfer of authority has come more responsibilities, but this has been our biggest hope.”

Abdul Kadr, NAC member, concluded, “Projects, such as the soccer field are like messages of peace and help to raise the name of Iraq up so that people can see that we are a free and prosperous country again.”

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## ***CUTLINES:***

**SoccerField-20040630-A-P4867-Dignitaries cut ribbon-0018 JPEG—**



Dr. Mohammed Kauef, District Advisory Council chairman (left) and Abdul Kadr, Neighborhood Advisory Council member cut a ribbon signifying the completion of a local soccer field and playground. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

**SoccerField-20040630-A-P4867-A local soccer team-0023 JPEG—**



Capt. Kevin Badger, commander of Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, (center) sits for a soccer team-picture marking the completion of the soccer field and playground. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)